

FESTIVAL OF EASTER
New York, March 29, 2010

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Good evening friends. Welcome to this Festival of Easter. It is a very significant Festival because it is the first of the Three Spiritual Festivals of Easter, Wesak and the Christ's Festival of Goodwill occurring during the next three signs of Aries, Taurus and Gemini.

As you know, these three festivals form the high point of the spiritual year. So because of the spiritual significance of these three Festivals it is important to consider why we are here. We are more than just a group of individuals; essentially we act as a center of lighted energy, and as such, it is our responsibility to radiate and distribute this lighted energy into human consciousness. So as we begin, let us take a few moments to carefully visualize our vertical alignment first with the higher group soul, and then horizontally with the many other group centers of light working this day around the world. Let us carefully build this network. And then let us realize that because we are a center of light and love we are also in contact with the spiritual Hierarchy of the planet. So let us bring this human center into alignment with the hierarchical center. If we visualize this vertical and horizontal alignment carefully, our work will be more effective and productive. Then while holding this alignment at a point of spiritual tension, let us sound together the powerful words of the *Mantram of Unification*; and as we do, let us realize the deep significance of the ideas behind the words as they pertain to the meaning of the Festival of Easter.

The sons of men are one and I am one with them.
I seek to love, not hate;
I seek to serve and not exact due service;
I seek to heal, not hurt.

Let pain bring due reward of light and love.
Let the soul control the outer form,
And life, and all events,
And bring to light the Love
That underlies the happenings of the time.

Let vision come and insight.
Let the future stand revealed.
Let inner union demonstrate and outer cleavages be gone.
Let love prevail.
Let all men love.

"Let all men love". Love is the great theme of the Easter Festival, the festival of the risen Christ. The energy of Love is the great cosmic energy that Christ came to anchor in human consciousness. He demonstrated this powerful, all-inclusive energy through a selfless act of sacrifice and service.

Easter is really not about crucifixion and death; it is about resurrection and the immortal life of the soul. Crucifixion and death are simply the process through which the living presence of the soul is revealed. Death is not the opposite of Life; it is the demonstrator of eternal Life. Through selfless sacrifice and death, the power of love is revealed.

Ever since that first Easter it has been the sustained power of love that has driven the world. Unfortunately, but not unexpectedly, this divine quality of love has manifested in many selfish way. The power of love has become so tainted, distorted and englamored by misdirected human desire that it is hardly recognizable as a divine quality of God. Love has become buried in a material wasteland. It has sustained the power of greed rather than directed toward human need.

But that is slowly changing now. Just in the past one hundred years we have begun to see the resurrection of the true quality of love in the human heart. It is becoming a vital force in human giving and sharing. Finally, now at the end of the Picean age, the note sounded by the Christ through His crucifixion and resurrection is beginning to be heard and expressed in human consciousness. It has taken two thousand years for it to resonate in human creative activity. But it is now being heard and is beginning to change the direction of human thought in a more universal and inclusive expression. So the love of Christ is a divine note that needs to be sustained.

So hopeful was the Christ and the spiritual Hierarchy about this development that the Christ decided that the time was ripe for Him to return to the physical world to complete the work He initiated two thousand years ago. Human consciousness is, now for the most part, at a stage where it can comprehend the true meaning of His service to the Plan of God. Human beings can cooperate with the process of manifesting love in the world and not simply bury this energy in the darkness of human desire.

As the Tibetan described it, "Before the Christ could come with His disciples, our present civilisation had to die. During the coming century [which is now], we shall begin to learn the meaning of the word "resurrection," and the new age will begin to reveal its deep purpose and intention. The first step will be the emergence of humanity from the death of its civilisation, of its old ideas and modes of living, the relinquishing of its materialistic goals and its damning selfishness, and its moving forward into the clear light of the resurrection. These are not symbolical or mystical words but part of the general setting which will surround the period of Christ's reappearance; it is a cycle as real as the cycle of conferences now so busily organising. Christ taught us when He came before the true meaning of Renunciation or of the Crucifixion; this time His message will be concerned with the resurrection life. The present cycle of conferences is preparing men everywhere for relationships, even though today they may seem widely divergent in nature; the important factor is the general human interest and thought about establishing the need, the objectives involved, the means to be employed. The resurrection period which the Christ will inaugurate and which will constitute His unique work—within which all His other activities will have their place—will be the outcome of the fermentation and the germination going on in the world of men at this time, of which the many conferences are the outer evidence"(ROC, p.22-23).

So all the conferences now taking place in the world--like the cycle of U.N. Conferences, the conferences on world hunger, on children, on economics and finance, on immigration and peace conferences, on the world environment and climate change--all of these conferences that help to awaken human consciousness to the global condition are actually evidence of the awakening of the Christ consciousness in the human heart. It is the power of the inclusive love of God redirecting human decision-making. It is evidence of the power of love to draw human beings together in right, harmonious relationships. Where there are right relationships, the energy of love can flow. And that is the fundamental intent of the Plan of God. It is the divine intent of the Plan that divine Love radiate through human consciousness so that eventually, perhaps ages from now, God can manifest more directly through the center called Humanity. So today we are at that crucial turning point where the new impact of this resurrected power of love needs to be

sustained, so that the power of inclusiveness and right relationship can win over and supersede the devastating effect of separateness.

The divine power of love has finally found a good anchorage in human consciousness. And the evidence is all around us in the form of active goodwill, caring for the needy in times of crisis, and harmonious working relationships among most of the nations of the world. Yet there also exists many areas--like in the Middle East--where an attitude of separateness is still quite dominant. So now more than ever there is a need to sustain the power of love so that it will continue to condition human consciousness in the way intended by the Plan.

This is why we have chosen the particular keynote for our work in meditation this year which emphasizes a "sustained effort". "Let sustained effort be the seed of synthesis, the force which binds together that which has been separated." This is a sustained effort to invoke the loving quality of the human soul to come forward into daily use and motivate all human activity. Building right relations in the world between people and among nations is only the first step in a long process which the spiritual Hierarchy is emphasizing now. Right human relations simply builds the foundation upon which everything else depends. A sustained building effort is the seed from which will blossom a quality of universal understanding. This quality of universal love is the binding force which will eventually prepare the way for humanity to begin its fusion with the Christ consciousness of the fifth kingdom, the kingdom of souls. As this fusion takes place the vibratory quality of human consciousness will be such that the synthesis of God will then be known. But only a sustained effort toward that objective will nourish the seed of synthesis.

The Tibetan describes this divine objective quite clearly:

"The coming of God is the coming or emerging fifth kingdom in nature whose citizens always bring beauty into the world, thus glorifying that Intelligence to Whom we give the name of "God"; whose citizens are distinguished by the quality of good will which must, in the long run, bring the right kind of peace on earth. It is a programme of such simplicity that the over-active minds of many will reject it on the ground that it is too simple, and yet the great and controlling factors in the world are always simple. Simple ideas work out when complex and complicated ones fail in their objective. The Hierarchy of Masters is governed by simplicity and this, which is one of Their plans, must be distinguished by it also. What are the plans today, and in what manner can you aid in the task of saving the world?

It can be greatly helped by the discovery, registering and education of the men and women of good will in the world. This is the major line of activity. Their united good will can become a world force and through sheer weight of numbers, these people can make their presence effectively felt. It will be a force which can mould public opinion through the expression of intelligent love (with the emphasis upon the word *intelligent*) but which will employ no separative devices, no armed force, no coercion and no political scheming and manipulation. Is it not possible so to evoke the spirit of good will, present but oft inactive in the hearts of all men, that there will be such a vast number of men and women of good will in the world—consciously in touch with each other throughout the planet—that their voice will not be negligible, nor their expressed desires impotent? It is this particular method of straightening out the world which the spiritual hierarchy has, at this time, determined to use. It is a somewhat slower method from your point of view, but the effects will be more lasting and it has in it dynamic possibilities. This method is based upon two premises: First, the proven fact of the success of the work which Christ instituted. He came to demonstrate in His Own Person the love of God. Prior to His time, there was little expression of that love objective in the world and little philanthropy or sense of responsibility for one's brother extant. Secondly: it is a method which has in it a long range success, and yet which can have, at the same time, an immediate reaction. This success and this

reaction are dependent upon all of you who are aware of these facts and set to do the desired work.

The New Group of World Servers provides a channel through which the power of God, focussed in the Planetary Brotherhood, can flow and that power is not intended (as is sometimes necessary under the evolutionary plan) to be destructive. The destructive forces of the planet are doing their directed and needed work, but the effects must be balanced and offset by the work of the World Servers. The power to be released can and will heal humanity's wounds and will bind all men together in a planned synthesis."

It should be reassuring, then, to realise that there are these very potent, cosmic forces working through the Christ to bring into the light the fifth kingdom in nature, the Kingdom of God. It should give us strength to know that we, as individuals and as a group, are needed to help in this tremendous planetary endeavor. Holding this in mind, it gives a whole new meaning to the significance of Easter—far more than the simple, self-centered belief that Christ died for our sins. There is a far greater issue at stake here—the birth of a new kingdom, built on a foundation of inclusiveness and love. So if we, as a group, can stand still in meditation and focus on, and act as a channel for, these new inpouring energies, we will contribute greatly in preparing the way for this earth-changing revelation.

Let us therefore reflect deeply in our meditation on the keynote: "Let sustained effort be the seed of synthesis, the force which binds together that which has been separated."

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